

**Citizens Advisory Committee for
Mayor-Council Transition**

Date: May 26, 2005

Attn: Council Committee on Mayor-Council Transition

Re: CAC Recommendations and Comments on Independent Budget Analyst &
Legislative Analyst; Presiding Officer; Council Committee System

Independent Budget Analyst & Legislative Analyst

► The CAC concurs with Dewey Square's recommendation for an independent office of analysis, with separate (but interactive) budget and legislative arms. This will provide the city council, as well as the public, with an integrated means of obtaining impartial information, analyses, reports, and recommendations for intelligent decision-making.

► The CAC also recommends that the budget analyst and legislative analyst report to the full city council and take requests for work through a coordinating or senior analyst. This will help maintain the independence and impartiality of the office of analysis.

► We have already expressed our concern that the consultants underestimate the staffing needs of this new office. To ensure equal standing between the executive and legislative branches of our new governmental system, we recommend an increased level of staffing through equitable redistribution of city resources.

Presiding Officer -- the following are key CAC observations about the PO

► The argument for a strong presiding officer (as proposed by Dewey Square) is to increase potential for greater stability, efficiency, and political strength within the city council.

► The argument for a more limited role for a presiding officer is to increase opportunity for wider participation and representation among all council districts, with the goal of greater equity and more diverse agendas.

► There was near unanimous CAC endorsement for the following compromise proposal to create a genuine balance between council efficiency and democratic representation:

Replace the present rules committee with a 3-member procedural committee. This committee would be chaired by the PO, with two council members serving on a rotating basis (bi-weekly or monthly). The committee would have 2 basic functions: to approve items for docketing and to refer items to appropriate committees. Since all council members would serve on a rotating basis, this committee would provide the opportunity for frequent and meaningful legislative contributions by all council districts.

► Contingent on the establishment of a procedural committee, a majority of CAC members recommend the following actions, with the understanding that improvements to council rules will be possible once the new system is in place. CAC alternative recommendations are underlined.

Re. Presiding Officer

1. Selection: by majority vote of council -- ok
2. Removal: by majority vote of council
3. Term of office: CAC majority agreed that a 2-yr renewable term would be acceptable only if a procedural committee was in place to serve as a mechanism to ensure balance.

(Note: this was a critical issue for the CAC. Some members favored a 2-yr non-renewable term (but did not rule out a 1-yr non-renewable term) if the broad powers recommended by the consultant were adopted, but only if the PO position rotated each term by district as a means of ensuring fair representation for all council districts in the long run. Other members favored a 2-yr term with no term limits.)

4. Duties:

- * Chair meetings of the council -- ok
- * Manage docketing process through procedural committee
- * Coordinate closed session docket with mayor and CA -- ok
- * Fill mayoral vacancy -- ok
- * Select pro tem by council majority
- * Appoint committee chairs, subject to majority approval -- ok
- * Refer matters to council committee through procedural committee
- * Enforce rules of council -- ok
- * Consent agenda developed by procedural committee
- * Request info: no majority position taken
- * Call special meetings: no majority position taken
- * Represent council -- ok
- * Summon witnesses: split between PO and council majority
- * Appts to bds&agencies: PO with council approval

Council Committee System

1. Number of committees: 4-5 (no recommendation re. details)
2. Committee representation:
 - * Chairs nominated by the PO, confirmed by council majority -- ok
 - * Members nominated by PO, confirmed by council majority -- ok
 - * 3 members per committee
 - * Term: 1yr renewable -- ok
3. Committee staffing: no recommendation
4. Committee process:
 - * Procedural committee refers matters to committees.
 - * Committee chairs determine calendar and agenda -- ok